

# Gaumont Casias a smash hit on world stage

DAN PLOUFFE

Gateway Foreign Correspondent

BELA HORIZONTE, BRAZIL—Remember that guy with the crazy hair on the Bears volleyball team a couple of years ago? Man, could he ever jump. Helped them win that last championship in 2005.

Well, Alexandre Gaumont Casias isn't your little secret any more, Alberta. His explosive hits (and explosive hair) have started to make his name known around the world.

Gaumont Casias left the Bears in 2006 to train full-time at the Team Canada Volleyball Centre in Winnipeg. Last month, the recently converted right-side player got his first taste of top-level international competition.

He wasn't expected to play much in the World League games, but got his chance early on when one of the senior players, Paul Duerden, was injured.

Gaumont Casias was on the court for most of Canada's second home match against Finland, and started both road matches in Korea. He was outstanding on the attack and was one of the leaders in World League scoring and hitting after the first four matches, even though he really only played in three.

The rest of his game—blocking and digging especially—was fairly far behind the international standard, but things were cruising along well for the 22-year-old. Then, during a weight-training session just after arriving in Finland, Gaumont Casias tore a pectoral muscle.

He stayed with the team for the matches in Korea and also for the next ones in Brazil, but when it became clear that a quick recovery wasn't going to happen, Gaumont Casias was taken off the roster for the final matches back in Canada.

Even 30 consecutive hours of travel to Jeonju, Korea (250km south of Seoul), wasn't able to dampen Gaumont Casias' excitement for the 2-3 June contests against the home team. Guess that's what happens when you haven't played a match in eight months.

Canada's first road game was played in front of a charged crowd of over 5000 that filled the Jeonju Indoor Gymnasium past regular capacity. Gaumont Casias was an impressive attacker, scoring a game-high 23 points.

But it was the one that got away that weighed on his mind; in the second set, Gaumont Casias had the chance to put Canada up 24-22, but a miss led to a 26-24 loss and ultimately a four-set defeat.

"I'm sorry, but [when] you're the right-side, those are the balls you need to put away," Team Canada head coach Glenn Hoag said after that match. "His play on hitting has been fine, but that's the only thing. Otherwise, hitters hit at him because they know he's not a very good blocker. I can support what he does well, but he needs to learn what to do at those key moments, and he needs to improve the rest of his game."

This wasn't news to Gaumont Casias though, who recognized he made errors on over-bumps, missed digs and a couple mis-hits.

"If you look at my stats, I'm doing well, but the most disappointing part is when I messed up, I messed up at crucial times," Gaumont Casias said. "Yesterday when we were leading, I got blocked twice in a row. Maybe I got nervous;

maybe I went for a safer shot. Like Glenn said, it's just attitude."

But it was his massive kills that were remembered by the crowd after the game, or at least by the legions of screaming teenage girls who mobbed him for autographs and photos on his way from the stadium to the team bus.

"You almost needed a bodyguard or two to clear the way," Gaumont Casias said, noting the treatment was a bit overwhelming for an "Average Joe" from Marieville, QC. "I know they're just high-school teenage girls, but they're going after you, yelling your name, and then giving you gifts, coming to the hotel, writing you letters, and then you just touch their hands and it's like the end of the world for them. It's pretty unreal."

There was an ear-shattering screech to the cheers when Gaumont Casias was introduced for the second match, and he played a starring role again for his newfound schoolgirl supporters—some of whom pledged to change their study plans to come to Canada to be with him.

He recorded his third-straight game-high point total, this time with 18 kills. Although Canada lost in straight sets, Gaumont Casias managed something personally he had never done before.

"When you hear all those high-performance athletes playing a big game saying, 'I didn't realize the crowd was there,' you think, 'Bullshit!' I've seen the crowd in all my volleyball games, spotted a beautiful girl or a family member, but yesterday's game I was in my own world," he said. "I saw pictures and on TV when we came back, and the place looked packed. I didn't even realize it. I didn't see the crowd, and that's never happened to me before. I've got to try to focus like that for all my games now."

Little did he know, it would be several months before his next game: after another 30 straight hours of travel, the team was back in the weight room, and either when he was doing bench press or pull-overs, he felt a lot of pain near his right armpit.

"Even if I tried to swing, I just can't. I cannot lift my arm. It's really painful," Gaumont Casias said after he had to watch from the sidelines as Canada lost again in three and four sets.

"We played like bantams there. I wish I could've been on the court to try to get the guys fired up because it seemed like they were just going through the motions. It was very disappointing to see that from the team."

Gaumont Casias continued to practice and warm-up for the matches, but could only swing with his left arm. The one upside was that he had plenty of time to work on what he and his coach saw as his weak points.

"That's the only thing I can do right now," Gaumont Casias said. "I don't know how long I'll be out for, but those next few weeks, that's what I'll have to do—just dig and block."

What was really bugging him, though, was facing the reality that he likely wasn't going to get to play against Brazil, the current champions of every major international volleyball competition.

"I would do so much to be able to play. It's like a dream to play the best team, but I can't, so it's just heart-breaking," Gaumont Casias said. "Right now, it's like I'm living the dream, but I can't enjoy it because I'm not part of it."



DAN PLOUFFE

**OH, CANADA** Former Bear Alexandre Gaumont Casias now plays for the senior national team.

Gaumont Casias did get some good news in Brazil, though: it was while he was there that he found out that an Italian club team, Marmier Lanza Verona, wanted to sign him to his first professional contract.

"I'm so excited. My dream was to play in Italy one day," he said, joking that his hairstyle; a five-year project, should net him an extra \$10 000 for promotional purposes. "I'm such a fan of the country, the culture, the rhythm of life there, and I love the language. I think it's a beautiful, romantic language."

Gaumont Casias has also received a contract offer from Turkey—apparently the volleyball world took note of his performances at the start of World League.

"I talked to my sister yesterday and she's like, 'Wow, it's unreal. You're just from a little town and you grew up to be a good enough athlete that you can make your life by playing a sport,'" Gaumont Casias recounted.

Though he didn't get to play in front of the 18 000 Brazilian fans in Belo Horizonte, there

was a great consolation prize for staying with the team. He got to experience an all-you-can-eat *churrasco* restaurant, where they bring barbequed meat out on swords.

"I think I got meat drunk there. I woke up at 7am and had a huge stomach ache," Gaumont Casias said. "It was just a meat party. It was meat, more meat and then more meat—filet mignon to goat to lamb to any of the best meat, and you can eat as much as you want. It was the best restaurant in the world."

Volleyball has taken Gaumont Casias to many places around the world now, but at every stop, he still thinks plenty about the track that got him there. That means you're still in his heart, U of A.

"All the players on this team, we work so hard. I've made so many sacrifices to get here—I left my family to go to Alberta, and then I had to leave there to go to Winnipeg," he said. "To get to the next level, I always had to leave so many people that I liked or loved behind me, and that's a tough thing."

## SPORTS SHORTS

### Pandas Soccer

The Pandas soccer program will be represented at this year's FISU Universiade Games, thanks to defender Natalie Swain, who was selected to the Canadian team.

Swain, who just finished her fifth year, was a 2006/07 season CIS All-Canadian.

There are both winter and summer

Universiade Games, which have been held every other year since 1959.

The 2007 Universiade will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 8-18 August.

### Pandas Volleyball

Edmonton volleyball fans were given reason to celebrate on 28 June, when the U of A was awarded the 2009/10 CIS women's volleyball National Championships.

Nationals brings together eight teams from around the country, including the four conference champions. As hosts, the Pandas will get an automatic berth in

the tournament. The U of A has hosted the national championships four times before: the 1994/95 season, and for three years from 1997 to 1999. They won each time.

### Bears Basketball

Don Horwood, head coach of the Bears basketball team, has been given the Edmonton Salute to Excellence Award, and will be inducted into the city's Sports Hall of Fame for his contribution to the basketball in Edmonton.

Horwood is entering his 25th year as Bears head coach. He has led the U of A

to ten National Championship appearances and to the 1994, 1995, and 2002 CIS banners.

### Track and Field

On top of her duties as U of A Track and Field head coach, Georgette Reed is an assistant coach with the Canadian Parapanamerican Games team. She will be travelling with them to Brazil in August.

The Parapanamerican Games is the counterpart to the Pan American Games, and is in its ninth year. This is the first time that it will be held imme-

diately after the larger event and in the same host city.

Canada will be sending 17 track and field athletes, including discus and shot-put thrower Kris Vriend of Edmonton, whom Reed coaches.

Reed is no stranger to international competition, either as an athlete or a coach. She competed for Canada in shot put and discus at the Commonwealth Games and the Games of La Francophonie. She has been on several Pan American Games teams and came in 17th in discus at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. She also travelled to the 2004 Olympics in Athens as a coach.

# Just don't call it ping-pong

Few fans but big fun at competitive table tennis' biggest Canadian tourney

ANDREW RENFREE  
Sports Staff

A big tournament in Edmonton last week attracted dozens of athletes to compete, but it might not be the one you were thinking of. In addition to the FIFA U-20 soccer tournament, the city was host to the 2007 Stiga Canadian Junior Table Tennis Championships.

While Commonwealth Stadium was being retrofitted, the main gym at Grant McEwan underwent a different kind of change. The hoops and hardwood were replaced by 14 blue tables, and the basketball and volleyball players by a swarm of young men and women with paddles in hand for the junior events.

For the athletes in the Junior tournament, the national championship is the culmination of at least 20 hours per week of -practice throughout the year, and tensions are high.

"The atmosphere is a combination of nervousness and aggression during the matches," said Shirley Yan, a participant from Edmonton. She has competed in national table tennis

events for about seven years and is a member of the Edmonton chapter of Alberta Table Tennis Association (ATTA).

David Jackson, tournament chair and president of the ATTA, attributes the excitement to the mass appeal of table tennis.

"You can play table tennis most of your life—it doesn't matter if you're seven or 77. It's gender-neutral, age-neutral, and a sport the whole family can participate in," Jackson said. "It's an addictive sport and many people stick with it once they get started."

"Table tennis is the largest racquet sport in the world in terms of participation. In fact, it is second only to soccer in terms of number of associations worldwide," added head referee Mike Skinner, who has been involved with table tennis in some capacity for 54 years.

Despite this, most of the fans in the gym at Grant McEwan were friends and family of participants. Those involved think that a lack of publicity is the sport's biggest problem. Even though the sport is easy to pick up—

paddles can be bought for as low as \$20 and any club would welcome new members with open arms—there's a lack of public knowledge about its competitive side.

Yan said that she has seen membership of the ATTA grow over the years, but notes that the organization still struggles to get members.

"There are more kids playing each year, but recruiting can sometimes be a challenge. We never seem to have the right venue for the events because no one knows about the events. We need to attract more people; maybe West Edmonton Mall would be a better venue," she said.

Jackson hopes that this tournament will brighten the spotlight on the sport in Edmonton.

"It's hard to tell if having the nationals in Alberta increases participation each year. We might see a bit more attendance at our clubs, but not much," he said. "However, having [the championships] in Alberta does help the Alberta Table Tennis Association because it provides more opportunity for more athletes to participate."

# Blowhard Oil fans need to chill out



NICK  
FROST

Outside of that aberration, though, what exactly has Kevin Lowe brought us? From what I can tell: three non-consecutive playoff appearances with seemingly average rosters, a superstar-defenseman whose contract should be considered a steal, a Clarence Campbell Trophy, a seventh game in a Stanley Cup Final, a reasonable six-year contract for Ales Hemsky, and the acquisition of a potential future Norris Trophy-candidate named Joni Pitkanen.

Talk further to these particular, pessimistic fans though, and they'll spin every move, no matter how big or small, Kevin Lowe makes—or, sometimes, doesn't make—into the reason that the team is, today, in such disarray.

They unfairly blame Lowe rather than circumstance. Nevermind the fact that when Doug Weight and Bill Guerin were traded, they couldn't afford to sign them; that when Mike Peca, Sergei Samsonov and Jaroslav Spacek all left, it was because they wanted to settle their families in a travel-friendly conference; or that Chris Pronger demanded out because of the lashes from Lauren's whip.

People tend to forget that pulling off the right deal in a major sports league is a lot harder than speculating about it with coworkers or typing it out in an online hockey forum. I mean, we could've signed Scott Gomez to a front-loaded ten-year, \$75-million contract and might still have missed the playoffs. You might want to say, "Gee, Kevin Lowe should trade Raffi Torres, Matt Greene, Taylor Chorney and a pick for Wade Redden and Antoine Vermette," but it's not as simple as it is on NHL 07, when you don't have to worry about an opposing GM on the other end of the phone telling you otherwise. Hockey is business; business isn't exactly easy.

The best thing Kevin Lowe could do—for all of our sakes—is to just come out and tell everyone that the team is being rebuilt. It would probably be more beneficial at this point to let the young kids get some experience at the pro level than to sign a couple of old, banged-up free agents who would probably make us worse before they make us Stanley Cup contenders for years to come. Maybe then we could all take that breather I talked about.



**LOOK MA, NO HANDS!** Canadian Midfielder Will Johnson tries to get the ball past an Austrian defender during their FIFA U-20 game on 5 July. Austria won the game 1-0, and Canada failed to advance to the round of 16.

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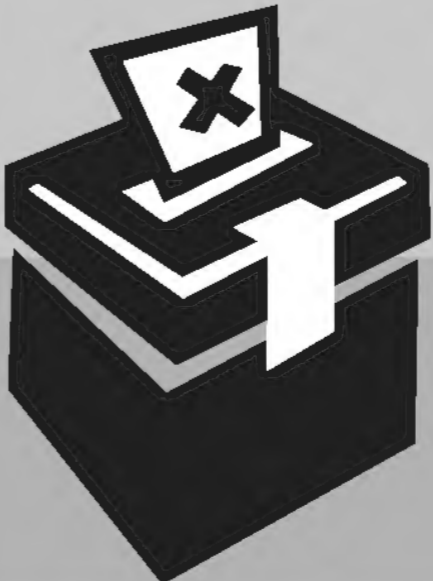
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# THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII summer issue 4 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, 12 july, 2007

## Francophone college proposed for U of A

CATHERINE SCOTT  
News Staff

Edmonton students hoping to continue their postsecondary studies in French, but who don't necessarily want or need a university degree, may have their wishes granted if a proposed francophone community college is approved.

The proposal is currently under review and has not yet been approved. But according to Dr Art Quinney, acting University provost and vice-president (academic), if everything runs according to plan, the community college should be up and running by September 2008.

He also explained how the program would be associated with Campus St Jean (CSJ), the U of A's francophone campus.

"It would be a program of Campus St Jean—the faculty—and administered through the faculty, so clearly it's a program that reports to the dean," Quinney said.

Programs such as Business Education, and Community Development are under consideration to be the three major areas of study for the community college. The focus would be to put forth programs that are needed and attractive to potential students.

"There is definitely some interest ... for [students] to continue their education in French," Quinney said.

Dr Marc Arnal, Dean of CSJ, clarified that if everything is approved, the francophone community college would have its own budget, administration, and advisory body. It would report to the same Faculty Council and would essentially answer to the dean of CSJ. The students would be

considered U of A students and have the same rights, responsibilities, and fees as other students.

Arnal believes that the college will satisfy a community need and will complete French-language instruction for students in Western Canada who have been taught in either a Francophone or French immersion program from kindergarten to grade twelve.

Although the school wouldn't be the first of its kind in Western Canada—NAIT also offers a bilingual business program—it would offer other fields of study for Francophone or French immersion students.

"It's plugging a fairly major gap in the postsecondary possibilities for French-language instruction in Alberta, both for French first-language and French-immersion students," Arnal explained.

There are still a few details that need to be worked out, such as funding for the new program, making adjustments to University websites—most notably BearTracks—and the distribution of diplomas and certificates.

The proposed community college would also aim to strengthen the ties the U of A has with its surrounding communities, placing it in an advantageous position within western Canada by offering a unique program.

"I'm feeling cautiously optimistic about [the proposal]. It's a fairly innovative thing for the [U of A] to get into," Arnal said. "If you look at our new mission statements coming out of the President's office, the [U of A] is intent on being very relevant within its community, and it is clearly in that vein."



MIKE OTTO

**UPDATE THAT SIGN** Campus Saint Jean is looking to expand French-language courses with a new community college.



TARA STIEGLITZ

**ADDRESSING GLOBAL INEQUALITIES** Dr Satya Das from the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights speaks on issues affecting gender and human rights during a speakers series on 12 June at the Faculty of Extension.

## Islam scholar headed to U

JEN HUYGEN  
News Staff

The University of Alberta is seeking to gain notoriety in its religious studies program through the recent appointment of a world-renowned Islamic scholar.

Dr Ibrahim Abu-Rabi has been named holder of the newly endowed Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities (ECMC) chair in Islamic studies, which will operate through the religious studies program at the U of A.

According to Gurstan Dacks, acting dean of Arts, Abu-Rabi will bring with him a wide range of initiatives and enthusiasm.

"[He's a] very dynamic individual with quite expansive ideas about advancing scholarship on Islam in the University of Alberta," Dacks said.

The position was established largely through the initiative and financial contribution of the ECMC, with funding matched by the provincial government and additional financial support provided by the University.

According to Willi Braun, director of the U of A's religious studies program, Abu-Rabi will be educating students on the history and traditions of Islam, as well as modern issues affecting Muslims around the world.

"The chair will be affiliated with the program in religious studies, and the primary mandate is to teach undergraduate and graduate students in the diverse traditions of Islam," Braun explained. "[It will] engage both the Muslim community and the public at large on issues that have to do with Islam and Muslims across the world, but especially locally."

PLEASE SEE ISLAM ♦ PAGE 3

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## Mad old-school props

Ten people got doctorates without spending \$50 000 and drinking Red Bull all night. Are you spiteful?

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## The Force in the Flesh

Local author Shane Turgeon's new book shows just how many people have turned to the dark-inked side.

A&E, PAGE 8

THE GATEWAY

thursday, 12 july, 2007  
volume XCVIII summer issue 4

Published since 21 november, 1910  
Circulation 7000  
ISSN 0845-356X

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THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS), a student-run, autonomous, apolitical not-for-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

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COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Victor Vargas and Ryan Heise

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 24 July.

While the Gateway was on hiatus between spring and summer semester, Council continued to meet. The following stories come from these meetings as well as from 10 July.

ADVOCATING FOR ADVOCACY

SU advocacy director Don Iveson, who will be resigning this year, presented to council about the relevance of his department and argued that it is worth the \$200 000 that the SU spends on it annually. Iveson claimed that over the last four years the department had made major strides and provided continuity to the Students' Union, which changes yearly.

"For instance, a project like the U-Pass, which really took five years to execute, might have been more difficult to execute, if not impossible to execute, were it not for some manner of continuity on the file from one year to the next. And actually, a lot of things the Students' Union does are actually longer term projects than one year," Iveson explained.

I move that Council move in camera.

However, Councillor Aden Murphy questioned the wisdom of spending money in that department when the money could be used for other SU initiatives. He noted that the money spent could fund as many as four ECOS departments or four Safewalks.

Iveson responded by stating that comparing the Advocacy Department to an SU service is like comparing apples and oranges, but admitted that Council has the final say on how to spend their money.

Coming to Iveson's defense, SU President Michael Janz weighed in, noting how he understands how councillors may be unable to see the value of the department, but assured everyone of its worth.

"I come into office, and I see what has been going on with the department: how they support us, what the staff are doing, the sheer amount of research knowledge that the SU has compiled on topics ranging from textbooks in the States and Canada to how the student loan system has affected different countries in Australia, Canada, and North America, and how this has affected us in Alberta. I have really seen the effectiveness of the department now," Janz stated.

BATTLE OF THE BEARS

A hot topic as of late has been the future of BearScat as the University moves closer to upgrading BearTracks via PeopleSoft 9.

Councillor Dave Cournoyer proposed a policy that would have the SU advocate to the University to make BearTracks contain the same functionality as BearScat.

"Students have been aware for a long time that BearTracks doesn't necessarily fit their needs," Cournoyer explained. "There are features that are provided in BearScat that could compensate for this. But the problem is that this is an example of the Students' Union picking up the slack of the University, and it's time we seriously advocate to the University that BearTracks needs to provide these types of services that BearScat provides in order to meet the needs of students and it is really important that this happens."

The policy passed but did face some opposition.

"I think it would be foolish and short-sighted to believe that the University will in fact bring any system in that will replace the functionality that will be lost if we lose BearScat," Business Councillor Scott Nicol explained.

Nicol also noted that BearScat's fate was essentially sealed by passing this

policy, as it locks the SU out from funding the system in any way.

BearScat creator Steve Kirkham has previously set an 31 August deadline for the SU to decide whether or not to support BearScat. Without any formal support, he has stated that BearScat will probably become non-functional come the influx of registration in September.

MAKING THE BIG BUCKS

Prior to Council taking place this past Tuesday, the Council Advisory Committee (CAC) met to discuss councillor remuneration.

The motion to repeal councillor pay was narrowly defeated with four members for, four against, and one abstaining.

Later in Council, Engineering Councillor and CAC Chair Prem Erubetine stated that he felt discussions regarding remuneration would probably continue.

POWERPLANT CONFIDENTIAL

Most of last Tuesday's meeting was spent in camera, as SU Vice-President (Operations & Finance) Eamonn Gamble and President Michael Janz made a closed presentation on the Powerplant.

The Plant has been closed all summer, and as its future still remains unknown.

STREETERS

Live Earth took place on Saturday, featuring eight concerts to promote awareness of global warming.

What are you personally doing to help the environment?



Matt Mazurek  
Arts Alumnus



James Huber  
Science IV



Todd Penney  
Science Grad III



Rakefet Hootnick  
Physiotherapy  
Grad II

I cycle to work at least four days per week, which is supposed to reduce carbon emissions by I think twenty pounds each time you do it. It's a twenty-five minute commute, and I do it rain, snow, or shine.

I recycle my beer cans. My roommates [drink enough beer that this is a significant contribution]. I do the recycling because I have the truck.

I do a lot more walking to school, both to reduce my carbon footprint and to save money. I do own a car, but I choose not to use it.

I use public transportation all the time, and I recycle. Back home, I live in a condominium that has composting and other things that aren't typical for a condominium complex, to reduce the waste in high density areas.

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Mike Otto





**A STROKE OF BAD FORTUNE** Even younger people with Type 2 diabetes can suffer strokes, U of A researchers warn.

# Stroke risk increased in diabetics

**SCOTT FENWICK**  
News Writer

Type 2 diabetes is more dangerous than first thought, according to University of Alberta researchers, as it increases diabetics' risk of having a stroke not long after diagnosis.

Their study, published in the June issue of the American Heart Association's *Stroke* journal, is one of the first studies to look into the danger Type 2 carries shortly after being diagnosed with the disease. It found that Type 2 diabetics were twice as likely to have a stroke within five years after diagnosis, compared to the general population.

"We hope our findings will help to dispel the notion that the risk of stroke occurs only in the long term," Dr Thomas Jeerakthil said, who led the study as assistant professor of neurology at the University. "Hardening of the arteries is already starting to develop in these people early in the course of this disease."

Hardened arteries eventually lead to blockages that cut off the blood supply—and the oxygen it carries—to the brain. Researchers followed up on more than 12 000 diabetics diagnosed with Type 2 over five years and discovered that nine per cent of them

already had a stroke, while 4.5 per cent of the general population did.

Researchers noted age as another factor in developing a stroke. Type 2 diabetics aged 30 to 44 were five times more prone to have a stroke compared to others their age. On the other hand, diabetics aged 75 or older were about twice as likely as other people their age to be afflicted.

"This was surprising to us," Jeerakthil said. "What this indicates is that diabetes is an important cause of stroke in this age group."

Another large Australian study following the one conducted at the U of A found a similar risk for prediabetes, an early form of the disease where the body has trouble metabolizing sugar.

Researchers working at Australia's International Diabetes Institute said adult pre-diabetes patients are 2.5 times more likely to die from heart disease as people with no blood sugar problems. For five years, the study followed more than 10 000 Australians aged 25 or older; if patients had abnormal blood sugar levels after fasting, they were considered pre-diabetic.

Paul Zimmet, who led the Australian study, explained that pre-diabetes will need to be taken more seriously by

patients. "If their risk of heart disease is this high before they have diabetes, it makes sense to try to divert the full impact in advance."

The studies come at a time when the rates of diabetes are increasing worldwide. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 177 million people had diabetes in 2000. In 2025, the WHO expects that figure to top 300 million. Moreover, until recently, Type 2 was only seen in adults, but now it's occurring in obese children as well.

Jeerakthil said he hopes these studies get diabetics to understand the need to reduce their risk early after learning they have Type 2. "Aggressive control of cardiovascular risk factors is essential as soon as diabetes or prediabetes are diagnosed. A relaxed attitude towards risk factor control is not appropriate given the findings of both studies."

Noting that controlling blood sugar alone doesn't curb the stroke risk, Jeerakthil said controlling cholesterol, eating healthily, and exercising are the best way to avoid it. "You usually need to make multiple changes in your lifestyle to make it a healthier lifestyle," he said. "We know that risk factor control is important; it's just getting people to do it."

# Appointment set to bolster Islamic studies

ISLAM ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Abu-Rabi is currently professor of Islamic Studies and co-director of the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at the Hartford Theological Seminary in Connecticut. Co-editor of the journal *The Muslim World*, he has also travelled extensively and can speak five languages—Arabic, Hebrew, English, French, and Turkish—fluently.

Dacks believes that Abu-Rabi will bring an increased exposure of Islam to expand students' understanding of Muslim culture.

“Professor Abu-Rabi has a breadth of scholarly interests,” Dacks said. “These interests include contemporary developments in Islam, both in terms of religious conversations and also interactions between Islam as a religion; and the social, political, and cultural context in which it unfolds.”

During his tenure at the U of A, Abu-Rabi will split his time and duties between the ECMC Chair position and that of an instructor.

“His responsibilities will extend a little beyond the ordinary duties of a professor in promoting Islamic

studies, engaging the community within the University at large but also in Edmonton, and nationally and internationally," Braun explained.

"He is going to be an important scholarly spokesperson on issues that are of concern to Muslims and non-Muslims with respect to Islamic traditions, Islamic cultures, and Islamic ways of life in an increasingly multicultural world."

This appointment will come into effect on 1 July, 2008. As of press time, Dr Abu-Rabi was not available for comment.



## Accident claims U of A student's life

**RYAN HEISE**  
Deputy News Editor

University of Alberta student Cody Lawrence passed away early in the morning of Thursday, 5 July. He had been in an induced coma since being involved in a motorcycle accident the previous weekend on the Whitemud.

Lawrence became known around campus last March as the upbeat and big-haired candidate contesting the Student's Union presidency.

While his campaign fell short, his plucky attitude kept his heart in the race even after it was apparent he wouldn't win.

"The fact that I got over 1000

votes out of over 6000 is phenomenal; it's amazing," Lawrence said at the time, following the announcement of the election results. "I'll definitely be back next year."

Mike Alexander, a close friend of Lawrence's, said in a statement released to the *Gateway*, "Cody was one of the most spectacular people I ever met. He made everyday I spent with him an adventure."

"To him, nothing was impossible; he was truly unique. There will never be someone who could ever come close to replacing Cody, and that's why I will miss him."

A memorial celebrating Lawrence's life was held yesterday at Jasper Place High School.



# Downtown Party Tent

Get Ready Edmonton, because

## You Won't Believe Who's Coming!

### July 18 - 28

A small preview of some of the events you'll see during July 18 - 28:



official race headquarters

#### Week 1

**Wednesday, July 18**  
**Industry Sneek-A-Peek Party**  
 Edmonton's first look inside the Downtown Party Tent! Tent opens at 8pm. \$3 drinks.

**Thursday, July 19**  
**Kick-Off Party With DJ AM**  
 DJ AM's first show in Edmonton!  
 Tent opens at 6pm, show starts at 8pm.

**Friday, July 20**  
**After Work**  
 Edmonton's biggest happy hour party featuring live music and photo opportunity with the Crown Royal Nascar. Tent opens at 3pm. \$1 beers and highballs from 4-5pm. \$4 beers and Crown Royal from 5pm - 8pm. Food service available.

**Race Party Live to Air with**  
 Connected Fridays with Nestor Delano and Luke Morrison.

#### Week 2

**Wednesday, July 25**  
**Budweiser Mystery Celebrity DJ**  
 Surprise Celebrity DJ. You won't know who's spinning until you show up! Tent opens at 6pm, show starts at 8pm.

**Thursday, July 26**  
**Tommy Lee DJ Set**  
 The one and only Tommy Lee will be spinning live in Edmonton's Downtown Party Tent. Tent opens at 6pm, show starts at 8pm.

**Friday, July 27**  
**After Work Round 2**  
 Featuring retro beats, \$1 beers from 4-5pm and \$4 beers 5-8pm. Tent opens at 3pm.

**Biggest House Party in the City**  
 Connected Fridays with Nestor Delano and Luke Morrison. We're live to air with The Bounce, this is the party you won't want to miss!

**Saturday, July 21**

**GOOD TIMES**  
THE BIG BOUNCE OUTDOOR BLOCK PARTY!

Harman B. alongside DJ Kwake spinning everyone's favorite old-school retro, early 90s, classic R&B, classic rock, and classic slow-jams.

For general inquiries, please contact us at:  
 780.420.9098 | [www.thebankultralounge.com](http://www.thebankultralounge.com)

For more information, group and corporate bookings:  
 Lindsay Lloyd  
 780.686.5563  
[lindsay@thebankultralounge.com](mailto:lindsay@thebankultralounge.com)

**Saturday, July 28**

**Lexus IS 350 Launch Party**  
 Win a weekend getaway with a Lexus IS 350!



CONNECTED presents



# DJ AM

Thursday July 19

Alongside CONNECTED Residents:

**DUSTY GROOVES** **GORDON THOMAS**

[www.myspace.com/dustygrooves](http://www.myspace.com/dustygrooves) // AB (AK) [www.myspace.com/gordonthomas](http://www.myspace.com/gordonthomas) // AB (AK)

**THE BANK**  
 ultra lounge

**MAIN ROOM 11PM-2AM**

**DJ KWAKE**  
[www.infomartipedia.com](http://www.infomartipedia.com) [www.myspace.com/djkwake](http://www.myspace.com/djkwake)

**HARMAN B**  
[www.ultraconcertgoers.com](http://www.ultraconcertgoers.com) [www.myspace.com/harmanb](http://www.myspace.com/harmanb)

**THE BANK**  
 ultra lounge  
 420-9098 10765 Jasper Avenue thebankultralounge.com

**Tickets:** First 300 \$25 in Advance // Remaining \$35 @ Door  
 Available @ Foosh, Yess Hair, The Bank Ultralounge, Ticketmaster

# Ten above

## A profile of 2007's honorary degree recipients

PHOTOS BY RYAN HEISE, JOSH NAULT AND MIKE OTTO

### **The Honourable Anne McLellan, PC** Honorary Doctor of Laws

Anne McLellan has served as a role model for women at the University of Alberta and throughout Canada. Her success in the fields of politics and law—areas where white males still largely hold positions of power—set her apart from many of her peers.

McLellan has been associated with the U of A for 25 years, including stints as associate dean and acting dean in the Faculty of Law. Recently, she was appointed director of the U of A Institute for United States Policy Studies. McLellan worked as a Liberal MP for 13 years, and served in the positions of Attorney General and Deputy Prime Minister; her success stands as a reminder of how society has changed.

“There weren’t very many women when I started law school, and I would hope that people would see that our world has transformed,” she said. “That’s one of the things I hope people look at me and say: ‘Gosh, she was part of this generation where a lot of things in society changed. Most of them—not all—changed for the better.’”

Still, according to McLellan, given that certain aspects of the political atmosphere remain male-oriented, many women resist getting involved in politics.

“Women don’t like confrontation. They are very pragmatic; they want to deliver results; they want to work co-operatively with people, and they don’t like the grandstanding they see in question period and elsewhere,” McLellan explained. “So I think the *culture* of politics is what women don’t like, but we’re going to have to get more involved to change [that].”

—Kim Smith



### **Sir Keith O’Nions** Honorary Doctor of Science

Through his scholarly British accent, Sir Keith O’Nions comes off as the quintessential scientist, and his credentials back this up: earning a PhD from the University of Alberta, he’s now head of the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Oxford, has 30 years of service in the UK public sector, and is one of the world’s leading geochemists. He’s also currently the director general of the Research Council in the UK, making him responsible for the \$8 billion distributed annually to UK universities for research.

Still, O’Nions hasn’t forgotten the roots of his career in Alberta.

“When I came here as a graduate student, I guess the U of A gave me a great leg up and kick-start to my career,” O’Nions explained. “I was extremely well trained, so to actually come back and be honoured like this, it’s exhilarating, humbling, and really exciting.

“I’ve always been proud to be a U of A graduate. When I was involved with negotiations with the Canadian government, they thought, ‘Well he can’t be too bad; he’s a U of A graduate!’” O’Nions said.

In his address to graduating students, he emphasized the possibilities the changing world holds for students venturing out into the world. Issues such as climate change and socioeconomic problems will require young, bright minds to address them.

However, O’Nions wasn’t afraid to take another lighthearted jab at his past career and his future.

“I’ve never had much of a career plan. At least if you haven’t got a really well formulated career plan, you can’t be too disappointed.”

—Ryan Heise



### **Dr Norbert Morgenstern** Honorary Doctor of Science

Dr Norbert Morgenstern’s internationally recognized work and expertise has changed the way geotechnical engineering is taught around the world and has helped transform the University of Alberta into a leading school in the field.

“I like to think I’ve helped [students] to see the world in a more interesting way and motivated them to be passionate about their engineering,” he explained. “I’d like to feel I’ve made a lot of friends with students and taken pleasure in their successes.”

Morgenstern has been at the U of A since 1969, but has also worked as a consulting engineer in over 20 countries. While here, he co-authored more than 300 research publications.

“To be recognized by the institution that you devoted a lot of your time towards is very special,” he said.

Morgenstern takes pride in the accomplishments of his students, many of whom have gone on to receive early recognition themselves.

“A lifelong education and maintaining their curiosity is what we need from [students] and what they need to fulfill themselves,” he said.

—Kim Smith



### **Dr Maria Klawe** Honorary Doctor of Science

Dr Maria Klawe’s postsecondary career began at the U of A as she embarked on an undergraduate degree in mathematics. But as a self-professed “hellraiser,” she dropped out in her first year, leaving the University—and its math department—on less-than-great terms.

“I was on SU council at the time that I dropped out, and somebody interviewed me for an article about how irrelevant mathematics was. I was dropping out because [math] wouldn’t be useful in making a contribution to the world,” Klawe explained with a sheepish smirk.

“It’s not very complimentary to the math department, but they didn’t hold that against me; they actually welcomed me back a year and a half later.”

From her non-deferential beginning, Klawe has since served as the dean of Engineering at Princeton and dean of Science at UBC, as well as being very active in promoting the position of women in engineering and computing science.

While reflecting on her time at the U of A, Klawe explained that she attributes her success to three important rules that she learned while here.

“The first one is fail openly and often. The second one is suppress jerky behaviour. And the third one is take the time to learn to be good at something you’re really bad at.”

—Ryan Heise



### **Allen Benson** Honorary Doctor of Laws

Allen Benson never considered juxtaposing his community service work and the qualities that a University of Alberta Honorary Doctor of Laws represents prior to his 7 June commencement ceremony.

“I didn’t bother to spend a lot of time drawing comparisons until after I found out I was actually nominated, and in fact receiving, the doctorate,” the Beaver Lake First Nation member said. “This is a great honour, but it doesn’t interrupt my life in any way. It’s something I can share with my coworkers and my family.

“It’s really not about me,” he continued. “Honorary doctorates are about all those people that work with me and sort of get out there and make a difference in someone’s life.”

Along with being former advisor to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs in New South Wales, Australia, Benson is CEO of the Native Counselling Services of Alberta. He has helped create a partnership addressing gang violence, tackled program development directed at homelessness prevention in the province, and spearheaded work in holistic and rehabilitative services for Aboriginal offenders.

“To me it’s really about our society,” Benson said, explaining that the younger generation shouldn’t solely bear the blame for problems surrounding gang violence, drugs, and crime.

And for U of A students approaching the end of their academic lives, Benson advised them to measure their future success by focusing on something they care about.

“[Students should] do whatever they’re passionate about. It doesn’t matter whether there’s a job or career out there for it; if they are passionate about it, they’ll be able to make it work for their life.”

—Natalie Climenhaga



**“I’ve always been proud to be a U of A graduate. When I was involved with negotiations with the Canadian government, they thought, ‘well he can’t be too bad; he’s a U of A graduate!’”**

**—Sir Keith O’Nions,  
Honorary Doctor of Science**

# Degrees Average

**Sheldon Bowles**  
Honorary Doctor of Laws

Bowles is a successful entrepreneur, best-selling author, and international speaker who began his career at the *Winnipeg Free Press*. A regular commentator on CBC Radio, he’s written for the *Globe and Mail*, *Time* magazine and the *Times of London*. After moving to Royal Canadian Securities, Bowles became president and CEO of Domo Gas. Since leaving the company, he has turned his metal manufacturing plant, Precision Metalcraft, into a multi-million-dollar business.



The degree is a coveted one for Bowles, who counted it among the highlights of his career. “I have had a career and various careers that have been so much fun, and to be honored like this this morning is just the pinnacle,” he said. Even though Bowles never attended the U of A, his fondness for the University was evident. “Spirit is spirit, in the sense that there is a spirit here. Trying to nail it down and say exactly what that spirit is would be difficult, but I think it’s a palpable spirit. There is a connection among people here to the institution, and a value in the institution and an awareness of its history, its goal, and its goals in the world,” he explained.

—Olesia Plokhii

**PJ Perry Guloien**  
Honorary Doctor of Laws

PJ Perry might stand out as the only musician to receive an honorary degree this year, but his list of accomplishments easily rivals those of the other recipients. A world-renowned jazz saxophonist, he has won two Juno awards and has been awarded the Critic’s Choice Award for Best Alto Saxophone six times by *Jazz Report* magazine. But the recognition from the U of A for his accomplishments stands apart from these other awards.



“It’s not the same respect you get from your peers, but it’s a profoundly courageous thing that University did to give a jazz saxophone player a doctorate of laws,” Perry explained. “It shows that the community cares about their artists.” Perry’s message to grads mirrored his own love for music and stressed how important he believes loving what you do with your life can shape who you become. “Learn to live with passion and to expect a series of never-ending frustrations through your life,” he said emphatically. “There are lots of times in our lives when we feel we’re not able to do something, and I believe if we persevere and have enough passion and desire in what we choose to do with our lives, we overcome those, and in hindsight, life and our vocations are filled with these plateaus. They can be thought of as our life works.”

—Ryan Heise

“With some degree of modesty, I’ve got a lot of awards and recognition over the years, but this is the ultimate. Looking at the other recipients of the award, this is pretty special.”

—**E Hunter Harrison**  
*Honorary Doctor of Laws*

**E Hunter Harrison**  
Honorary Doctor of Laws

With his huge grin and quintessential southern drawl, E Hunter Harrison explains what he believes is the most important quality for university graduates to take with them into the professional world. “Leadership and the *importance* of leadership. [It’s] a lost art, and if you could take the power of your education, expertise, and experience ,and add leadership to it, it’s a powerful combination.” Harrison, who has been president and CEO of CN Rail since 2003 and was named North America’s Railroader of the Year in 2002, emphasized how pleased he was to receive the U of A’s award. “With some degree of modesty, I’ve got a lot of awards and recognition over the years, but this is the ultimate. Looking at the other recipients of the award, this is pretty special,” he said. After spending over 40 years in the industry, Harrison noted how challenging it can be for recent grads to move into established fields, working side-by-side with people that can be over twice their age. “A lot of us do not like change—we like to do things the old way,” Harrison stated. “If we can’t adjust our values between a 60-year-old and 20-year-old, we’re going to have a horrible time communicating. But if I understand a little bit more about their value system, and they understand a little more about mine, and you have some mutual respect, then you can get a powerful communication going.”

—Ryan Heise



**Dr Robert Westbury**  
Honorary Doctor of Laws

A renowned community figure within Edmonton and Alberta, Westbury was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws for his work in the Capital Region. “I felt very, very humble, and I felt in awe of [the award],” he said. Westbury’s past credentials include director of curriculum development with the Edmonton Catholic School Board, president of the Society for Energy and Environment Development Studies (SEEDS) Foundation, vice-president of TransAlta, and vice-president of Grant MacEwan College. His connection to the University stems back to his work with youth and education, particularly his connection to teaching. “The reality of it is the things that I’m involved in are things that I think are paid off when people do go to university,” Westbury said. “So my concern has always been with young people, [and] all of the research says that if you don’t look after young people, they have a very difficult time surviving.” Westbury currently chairs the Telus Edmonton Community Board, the Alberta Centre for Child Family and Community Research, the Enoch/Paragon Board, and the Alberta Order of Excellence. The future looks bright for Westbury, who dismissed any notion of retirement. “What do I do when I get up in the morning if I’m not working? Do I have a scotch? Well, it’s a little early for that,” Westbury joked.

—Jen Huygen



**Wilton Littlechild**  
Honorary Doctor of Laws

Wilton “Willie” Littlechild was the first indigenous person appointed to Queen’s council in Alberta, the first Treaty Indian to serve in federal Parliament, and has represented indigenous issues to the UN since 1977. But despite these and other credentials, he still cites receiving his bachelor’s degree in Physical Education from the U of A as his proudest accomplishment. “At the time when I started, there were fewer than 100 indigenous university students across Canada. [The U of A] was a campus of about 21 000, and there were five of us,” Littlechild remembered. “Now there’s hundreds. I think that succeeding at that first step—getting my first degree—meant a lot to me and at the same time showed other first nations students that it’s possible. If you challenge yourself and work hard enough, you can succeed at a postsecondary level.” As a student, Littlechild was no stranger to hard work. During his time at the U of A, he played on four separate varsity teams, which meant he had to fit his homework in between football, hockey, basketball, and swimming practices. Still, he claims being a Golden Bear is what helped him get through school. “Being on a team made it easier for me to succeed at school because I had an immediate group of friends in my teammates,” he explained. “I [also] knew that if I wanted to stay on the teams, I had to keep my marks up. The discipline I learned through sport translated easily to studying.” Littlechild stayed at the U of A for both a master’s degree in physical education and a law degree, and therefore considers this accolade to be that much more significant. “It’s a tremendous honour, and it means a lot to me to be recognized by my own university,” he said.

—Robin Collum



## Live Bullshit

ON 7 JULY, 2007, LIVE EARTH, A DAY-LONG global concert series aimed at promoting awareness of climate change, kicked off. With eight official concerts spanning every continent—including an event at Rothera Research Station in Antarctica—and over 150 musical acts, Live Earth was one of the largest global events ever to take place, reaching an estimated audience of 2 billion people.

I've got no problem with creating more awareness of global climate issues—I've even taken efforts to reduce my own carbon footprint—but the idea of doing it through a series of concerts is a ridiculous proposition.

While it's easy enough to point out the hypocrisy of such an event—the amount of energy required to put on concerts of such a huge size, the transportation of artists worldwide, the waste produced by concertgoers, and the fact that one of the events is being held at the Coca Cola Dome in South Africa, among others—organizers have been quick to dispel such concerns by using on-site power generators, selling concession products in biodegradable containers, and purchasing carbon credits to offset emissions from the concert.

Surely event founders Kevin Wall—who is also the founder of the global climate change activist organization Save Our Selves—and Al Gore will laud how successful the event was, seeing how all the concerts sold out and the ratings from the broadcasts were through the roof.

But what they have failed to acknowledge is that a concert bill filled with many very popular acts is incredibly attractive to many people regardless of its cause.

Therein lies the inherent problem with any benefit concert: how do you know if you're succeeding in getting your message out or if the attendees are only there to hear the music? I think it's safe to side with human nature in this case and go with the latter.

When the concert series was announced, I don't think many people said "Hey! A concert for global warming! I can get on board with that!" rather than, "Hey! A concert the Police are headlining!"—and then proceed to shout "Roxanne" in a high-pitched voice.

What's more, unlike previous benefit concerts that were free, Live Earth was a ticketed event. Organizers explained that the money would be used to offset emissions produced by the concert and would also go to supporting global initiatives aimed at reducing the effects of climate change.

But making people pay to go to this type of event just reinforces what it really is—a big concert. If offered for free, most people understand that there's a catch or purpose behind it. If you need to pay to attend, it greatly downplays the meaning of the event.

Furthermore, with artists such as Fall Out Boy, Xzibit, Snoop Dogg, and Metallica performing, it's difficult to find the logic in Live Earth as an event to promote activism—not to shit on 14-year-old girls, gangsters, or metal heads, but I don't think many of them are concerned with global warming during their everyday life. Maybe they should be, but you won't trick them into becoming David Suzuki fans through the incomprehensible emo lyrics of Fall Out Boy.

Instead, Live Earth, just like Live Aid in 1985 and Live 8 in 2005, will quickly slip out of the minds of many and simply be referred to as "that big concert they did that one time."

Citizens of the world need to become more engaged with the problems that affect everyone, but nothing has spurred the masses to get involved with global initiatives yet.

I'm not sure I know what the answer to end this apathy is, or if anyone does for that matter. But selling out a concert and claiming you've made a difference isn't going to accomplish much.

RYAN HEISE  
Deputy News Editor

## Behind closed doors

Council shut us out  
Pretending to do something  
hoarding the pizza.

CONAL PIERSE  
Opinion Editor



CONAL PIERSE

### LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

#### Team cheers lacking zest

The campus reeks with apathy. And no bloody wonder.

Take football, for example. Everyone sits on their hands quietly getting stewed and completely ignoring the game.

Even worse are the cheers. This is not the fault of cheerleaders who are as well-assembled as one can reasonably expect of a U of A female to be. Consider the following:

"Go team go"—old.  
"Fight team fight"—repetitive.  
"Go Bears go"—Freudian.  
"Rah rah rah" reeks of Ross Shep  
"We've got spirit"—mundane.  
See? Our cheers should be a little more mature, ie:  
"Maintaint that meridian, fellows"  
"Arrest the vacillating kinetic energy of our adversaries"  
"Enfranchise the oblate spheroid Affray tenaciously"  
"Cause our antagonists debase-ment"  
"Instigate their apathy"  
"Violate their terminal territory, thereby increasing the tabulation of our achievement"

PSEUDONYM  
22 October, 1963

#### Why don't you eat some flowers instead, hippies?

This letter concerns a Boston Pizza outlet's refusal to serve "long hairs"

I think that it is only right that the management of a certain Boston Pizza has taken the attitude that they have shown in their recent scuffle with the pinko-leftist activists who attend university.

These kind should be put in work camps to find out what it means to earn a dollar. They wear long, unruly, unkempt hair; why if God wanted us to have long hair, he wouldn't have created barbers. Their kind and their morality—humbug! If God wanted us nude, we would've been born that way.

I applaud the stand of Boston Pizza and wish more establishments and the government and police of Canada would take a hard line on the "long hairs."

I mean, this is a democratic, free country, so that gives me the right to persecute and oppress who I want.

Me and the boys at the pub are hoping you give the silent majority a listen too.

THOMAS SPERLIN  
15 January, 1970

#### The battle for the cosmos takes place in letter form

*The following three letters were prefaced by this introduction by the editor of the Gateway for 1976/77: "We get all sorts of crazy letters mailed to us, but perhaps none as crazy as this one. Actually, there's more than one letter—it's a letter from 'God' to me, the editor, then a letter Lucifer sent to 'God', and finally, 'God's' reply. These letters were real. But you've got to admit they're pretty crazy."*

As Almighty God, I greet you: enclosed are two letters—one written by Lucifer and addressed to me, the other dictated by me and addressed to Lucifer. Since Lucifer gave no forwarding address, I pray these letters will be published in your newspaper as open letters.

The two letters appeared in 1964. They were limited to about

500 editors, whereas today, we have almost 3000 editors and publishers on our mailing list. As long as time will remain, mortals will always be in contention with the devil. He has his own brand of justice—a shroud on unwary souls, in this never-ending surge of virtue.

Every day, misguided souls fall to the cleavage of his death grip. As long as time will remain, I, your living God, will do battle to save lost souls: Those who come to me in faith, I will in no way cast out. I will clothe the recipients in humility and save them from the clutch of the devil.

As long as I, your living God, and time remain, evil must always lurk in the shadows and a constant, never-ending struggle between God and righteousness, and the evil domain of lost souls must remain.

As Almighty God, my Holy Spirit has dictated this letter to you through my blessed son, who wrote down my holy words. My holy name is never written on paper. My endearing son will sing his name keep you from falling prey to evil.

Eugene Changey

A short time before the day most almighty, omniscient, omnipotent and puissant Living God:

Your letter to my obedient servants has been turned over to me, in fear and trembling.

I wish to remind you that you—I am sorry, I forget my manners—that you are not honoring the solemn contract which we signed in the graciousness of the Spirit. The 1000 years of my rule has not yet ended. Until that time, I must ask that you do not attempt to seduce my oath-bound servants to the paths of righteousness. Otherwise, I shall be forced to unseal the vials... and you know what that means!

I do not need to request that you burn this letter. It will burn itself in

due time. Nor do I fear to sign my true name, as you evidently do.

Lucifer

Your letters smell of evil—just as you and your servants. On the day you inherit my throne, all of heaven and hell will be engulfed in the fury of the atmosphere.

I vomit at your discretion that you should challenge your maker. Be not behooved by saints in desire to lust, but adhere to my ways which will never alter so long as the earth and sky remain.

As Almighty God, I have dictated this letter through my blessed son, who believed in me and I in him and shower upon you the coals which are justly thine.

My holy name will never appear on paper—which is true to form. My humble son will sign this letter to alter fear of destruction

EUGENE CHANGEY  
10 March, 1977

*Letters from the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just really hilarious.*

*Real letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or emailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.*

*The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.*

*Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student ID number to be considered for publication.*

# Try staying at home, you bum



KIRK  
ZEMBAL

With unemployment currently pegged at 3.5 per cent, people are understandably jubilant, flushed with cash and loving life. Sure there are hiccups, but nothing that a little money can't fix—and money we have. Lots of it.

How could you go hungry when there's so much work out there? But most experts would say that our economy reaches full unemployment at around 5 per cent.

This means that at 5 per cent unemployment, everyone who's capable of work would have a job. And we are below that by over a full percentage point.

To this layman, that would mean that for every 100 people in the workforce, there's one person who should be technically incapable of performing work.

In even more simplistic terms, that hypothetical person shouldn't be working. Anywhere. For the simple reason that this person is not hypo-

thetical—they're working beside you and me. And in polite terms, they're messing stuff up.

I'm not unsympathetic by any stretch—I can fully understand everybody wanting to participate. I just believe, and I imagine most would agree, that societies are meant to absorb a bit of slack in the economy.

**You have to trust the person working next to you, and when that person was considered unemployable a few years ago, there might be a problem.**

The reason we have social services is to take care of people who are unable to provide for themselves. And therein lies the rub: if given the chance, why wouldn't someone take the opportunity to provide for themselves, even if doing so endangers the rest of us?

I'm not being alarmist or melodramatic either: having an unemployment rate below full employment endangers us.

It means that people with chronic

alcoholism, drug addictions, socialization problems, and a whole host of other unemployable qualities are being begged to dust off a long-forgotten trade or practice—something they have no business practicing.

That, combined with our current breakneck pace of development, means that we're going to be faced with an entire gamut of problems to correct.

These will manifest themselves in the forms of shoddy construction, crumbling infrastructure, inefficient processes, a knowledge base full of gaps, and, most worrisome, a climate of unsafe work practices.

Ask around, and you'll hear that the amount of errors in home building has skyrocketed in the last couple of years. You'll hear that contractors are unwilling to offer warranties. You'll hear that people are scared to go to work.

You have to trust the person working next to you, and when that person was considered unemployable a few years ago, there might be a problem.

Here's hoping that Honest Eddie Stelmach does the right thing and helps get the less fortunate off the streets—and more importantly, off the jobsite. Because his predecessor's always helpful, "Get a job, you bum," stance will end up doing us a hell of a lot more harm than good.

# Freedom of speech going up in smoke



JACALYN  
AMBLER

There are only a few truly great movies about college. One of these is *Animal House*, the 1978 frat-party classic that provides a shining example of National Lampoon before they started sucking.

Recently, however, a viewing of an edited-for-television version of the movie gave me a somewhat unpleasant surprise. While it appeared mostly uncut, one particularly memorable scene—the one where a college professor smokes a "marijuana cigarette" with some of his students—hadn't made it.

It was difficult to see why that particular scene was more worthy of editing than much of the film's other questionable content. But it's understandable why some consider unambiguous drug content unfit for cable consumption, arguing that a safer and more controlled educational environment should be ensured for a youth's first exposure to the questions associated with illegal substance use.

Apparently, the good people of Wawota, Saskatchewan aren't among those who share this sentiment. Recently, Kieran King, a 15-year-old honour student and one of the town's 616 residents, experienced this position firsthand when he made the mistake of bringing up our country's cannabis conundrum in the school lunchroom.

By all accounts, King's offence was nothing more serious than sharing some statistics on the drug which he found on the Internet, as well as his opinion that marijuana should be legalized in Canada. This excess of information apparently offended a fellow student, prompting a complaint to the school's principal and

**"A lot of lip service is paid in this country that it's a place of freedom. But in our rush to defend it, we sometimes lose sight of what it actually means. We are so used to thinking of it as simply 'good' that we lose sight of its intrinsic value, which, simply put, is nothing."**

a subsequent call to King's mother during which the student claims he was accused of soliciting drugs.

A walkout in order to protest this unjust treatment was organized by King, his peers, and several members of the Saskatchewan Marijuana Party; this was met with a school lockdown.

When King and his brother remained outside, they were suspended—not, allegedly, for voicing their opinions, but for failing to follow school rules.

While the legal justifications for the school's actions are questionable at best, it's their softer, societal implications that should pose more concern.

Don Rempel, the school division's acting director, went above and beyond discussing the lockdown during his public statement. He passed judgment on the entire concept of Canadian public education, arguing that "public schools are not public places ... where students can gather and talk about any issue that they wish."

This is bound to be somewhat surprising news to the many teachers and other school employees who have been giving up their nights and weekends thinking that they were serving that exact purpose: to provide a safe forum where students can learn from both educators and from their peers in a relatively risk-free atmosphere and arm themselves with that information when it comes to making real-world choices.

With his comments, Rempel has bluntly opposed the validity of this *raison d'être*, and perhaps this opposition should serve as pause for reflection. After all, a lot of lip service is paid in this country that it's a place of freedom.

But in our rush to defend it, we sometimes lose sight of what this actually means. We are so used to thinking of it as simply "good" that we lose sight of its intrinsic value—which, simply put, is nothing.

The liberty to speak freely doesn't really, in itself, provide society with any benefit. It's not the magic stuff that good societies are made of or something that we keep around as insurance in case we someday need to speak out against something bad. Having it around to use someday, just in case, doesn't produce better citizens or a better country.

It's not the right itself, but its product—discourse—that generates the positive societal change that has come to be associated with countries that are seen as "free." The dialogue of the many is supposed to produce the best solution for all—or at least enlighten everyone a little in the process. And the first place that that dialogue should be protected and fostered is in the classroom.

The country's debate over marijuana legalization is not the issue at stake here, nor is the drug itself. Mr King denies that he has ever even seen marijuana, and whether or not he has used it is beside the point.

It wasn't any action on his behalf that had the power to produce such repercussions, even though it was said in the attempt to open an honest, frank, and politically aware discussion with fellow classmates.

These efforts are the embodiment of the often professed Canadian ideals of awareness and tolerance. Saskatchewan as a province, and Canada as a country, should be proud of producing such a student, and ashamed of silencing him.

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## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### Rebecca Higgs

With Hot Panda and Meligrove Band  
Friday, 13 July at 8pm  
Victory Lounge  
\$10 at the door

Hailing from Halifax, this chanteuse describes her genre as “indie shoegaze pop,” which seems to be an accurate description her ethereal, jazz-like voice sung over a bed of electronica and/or acoustic guitar. The themes of her music cover unrequited love, lost loves and romance. Yet she definitely displays her talent and originality, somewhat reminiscent of a folkier Bjork. In addition to this show, Higgs is also performing on 12 July, at SNAP gallery.

### Jay and the Lovebirds

With Minutia Conspiracy  
Friday, 13 July at 9pm  
Blackspot Café

It’s not often that I get to give props to a band from my own town in this column, so I must take the opportunity when it comes. Jay and his Lovebirds are bringing their alt-rock assault all the way from Brooks, Alberta. They are currently preparing their debut album, entitled *Sounds of Hope*, and fans of Underoath or Thrice should enjoy these dove-themed rockers.

### Canadian Air Guitar Championships: Alberta Finals

Sunday, 15 July at 9pm  
\$5 cover, 18+  
Velvet Underground  
www.airguitar.ca

Do you have the energy and stamina to play guitar, but lack any actual talent? Are you even deprived of the primordial motor skills necessary to excel at the five-button jamming of *Guitar Hero*? Can you jump around, headbang, and move your fingers, all at the same time? If you answered yes to any of those questions, you’re in luck.

This weekend, the Velvet Underground is hosting the province-wide Air Guitar Championships. You can be assured that the amps on the backing recordings will be cranked to eleven. This bedroom pseudo-sport has even gained enough of a following to have its own documentary. The winner of this weekend’s championship will advance to the National Championships in Toronto, where the victor will pick up a priceless, to-scale clay diorama of Valhalla.

### You Kill Me

Starring Ben Kingsley and Tea Leoni  
Directed by John Dahl  
Princess Theatre  
Opens 20 July

Ben Kingsley has, in recent years, had a fairly rough ride. The Oscar winner, who has portrayed such significant figures as Gandhi, Moses, and Lenin and who was nominated for an Oscar as recently as 2004, also starred in such winners as Uwe Boll’s *Bloodrayne* and the bizarre live-action remake of *Thunderbirds*. Well, you win some, you lose some, and Kingsley looks like he replaced his agent, as *You Kill Me* has been generating some positive press. Kingsley stars in this comedy as an alcoholic mob hitman who begins attending AA meetings.

### Sacra Privata

Works on paper by Blair Brennan  
SNAP gallery  
On Display until July 21

Sacra Privata, a Latin term meaning the religious rites of a house, family or tribe, is invoked by artist Blair Brennan to describe his current SNAP gallery exhibit. Autobiographical in nature, Brennan uses his drawings to form a “visual diary” of a rough period in his life, one where he shares his secret, possibly sacred, ideas and personal, possibly private, trials. So actually, the title isn’t all that cryptic.

JOHN KMECH  
The Judge Dread of A&E



MIKE OTTO

**TATOOINE YOU** Shane Turgeon’s new book has revealed legions of people willing to be the Emperor’s right arm, even right here in Edmonton.

## May the force be (permanently) with you

### The Force in the Flesh: Star Wars Inspired Body Art

By Shane Turgeon  
Design by Jeff Correll  
SFT Productions  
www.theforceintheflesh.com

TYSON DURST  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

After 30 years, there’s no question that the *Star Wars* saga has left its mark on millions of people throughout the world, but a new book from local author Shane Turgeon proves this in the most literal sense. *The Force in the Flesh*, his self-published photo collection, casts the familiar movies in a new light—as a surprisingly popular tattoo choice.

Officially released at Star Wars Celebration IV in Los Angeles in May, the coffee-table book shows how many people have made *Star Wars* a permanent part of their lives.

“After running tattoosandtoys.com for over five years, we just met so many awesome people with amazing tattoos and amazing stories, and I kind of wanted to illustrate to the readers the people

behind the tattoos that they’re not just people who live in their parents’ basement and whatever else,” Turgeon explains.

“They’re straight-up, honest, normal people who just have a passion for *Star Wars* and tattoos and have combined it,” he continues. “I really enjoy big art books, and a lot of tattoo aficionados love big art books, so we’ve got subject matter that we thought would make a perfect art book.”

The author’s tattoo exhibits and competitions held at the past two Los Angeles Star Wars Celebrations have been eye-openers for the public, both inside and outside of the *Star Wars* fan community. They’ve exposed a subculture within a subculture, one that was waiting for its time in the spotlight.

“If you’re coming from the mainstream world, you’re like, ‘What the hell? *Star Wars* tattoos?’ They don’t understand that a culture like that even exists. Within the *Star Wars* community, everybody is really into it, really supportive, even if they’re not into tattoos themselves,” Turgeon points out.

“They’re something that sprung from the underground, and I don’t think anybody realized how big it actually was until it was somewhat

upon us,” he elaborates. “It’s something that’s kind of underground, but it’s exploded within the last few years to become fairly mainstream and an accepted part of the *Star Wars* community.”

Almost as popular as the movies themselves are the stereotypes of its fans, typically the image of obsessive male nerd. But *The Force in the Flesh* effectively destroys such images by examining tattoo subjects and artists from both genders and various walks of life. Despite the general stereotypes, Turgeon—who has *Star Wars* tattoos himself—notes that tattoos are becoming increasingly mainstream for various reasons.

“There’s a lot of people that have always had that [idea]: that they’re for sailors, whores and bikers,” Turgeon explains. “But with professionals like doctors or lawyers or bankers who have a love of tattoo art—and especially with the art becoming so exceptional in the last ten or 15 years—it’s generated a lot more mainstream acceptance.”

This newfound acceptance means that promoting tattoo artistry based on a galaxy far, far away has taken off, as Turgeon continues a busy summer with stops at Star Wars Celebration Europe and the San Diego Comic Con this month.

## Second time’s the charm for local theatre show

### theatrepreview

### The Exquisite Hour

Runs 12-28 July  
Varscona Theatre  
Directed by Stuart Lemoine  
Starring Jeff Haslem and Kate Ryan

NICOLE CARGILL  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It’s a rare occasion when a locally written and produced show gets a second shot at the limelight, but since *The Exquisite Hour*’s debut at the 2002 Edmonton Fringe, audiences and critics alike have been begging for its return. Now, five years later, the Teatro la Quindicina theatre company is bringing a repeat showcase of *The Exquisite Hour* to the Varscona Theatre.

Directed by Stewart Lemoine and showcasing the same cast, audiences of the original run will be pleased to know that little tinkering has been done to the show.

The play is based on the poem *L’Heure Esquise* by 19th-century poet Paul Verlaine and by music from French composer Renaldo Hahn. According to Lemoine, such music set the perfect mood for a play about magic, everyday moments that seem to block out the surrounding world.

“When I reflected on [Hahn’s music], it has a really nice little suspended quality. [The play’s] about a special moment in time where two people come together romantically, and everything else around them seems to stop. The music sort of described that to me perfectly,” Lemoine explains.



MIKE OTTO

**TEALE ME ABOUT IT** Jeff Haslem and Kate Ryan seem content to reprise their *Exquisite Hour* roles.

Jeff Haslem plays Mr Teale, a 30-something bachelor who finds his quaint life forever skewed one summer evening when a stranger arrives in his backyard. Mrs Darimont, played by Kate Ryan, engages Mr Teale to reflect on the quintessential essence that is his life. Her sales pitch? Encyclopedias.

“Through the course of that hour, they get to know quite a lot about each other, and she has a little agenda, but I don’t want to give it away,” Lemoine chuckles. “[The play’s] about how much can actually happen in an hour.”

“It’s about meeting new people and about loneliness or the value of having someone in your life at the end of the day,” he continues. “People often look for little moments of quiet and think that there

is that exquisite hour at the end of the day as the sun goes down, and I think people always have that moment of reflection and say ‘Well, that’s it.’ It’s about the little moments that you wish could last.”

*The Exquisite Hour* also carries with it an air of finality for Lemoine, as the show is his final production as the artistic director of Teatro La Quindicina. He’s remaining with the company as a playwright, however, and despite this passing of the torch, seems just as radiant as a summer night.

For those who didn’t catch the previous Fringe run of *The Exquisite Hour*, Lemoine promises a light-hearted time, demanding little from our sun-stroked, sandal-calloused summer schedule. All he asks is an hour of your time.

# Tizzard introduces himself at last

After more than a decade, the bass wizard is finally the one in the spotlight

## musicpreview

### Ken Tizzard

Saturday, 14 July at 9pm  
The Black Dog  
10425 82nd Avenue

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Having spent 15 years as part of some of Canada’s biggest acts, including The Watchmen and Thornley, bass-ist/singer Ken Tizzard’s decision to go solo was a surprisingly easy one to make. He simply wanted to sample the quieter side of a musical life.

After leaving brother-in-law Ian Thornley’s band in late 2005, Tizzard crossed into independent territory to develop and showcase his own songwriting chops, centred around his six-string bass. The resulting songs infuse a mellow style with fast ’80s dance tunes, with Tizzard behind every single aspect of their creation.

“When I first left the commercial world and decided to do everything on my own, it was very exciting because I hadn’t done the [do-it-yourself] thing in 15 or 18 years,” Tizzard says. “Everything from doing the artwork, writing, recording, engineering, choosing photos, [editing] photos—everything you could possibly imagine I did myself. It was a really good perspective check for me after for so many years of just kind of showing up and having somebody pass me my guitar while

I’m up on stage.”

Tizzard’s meticulous efforts resulted in the release of *Quiet Storey House ... an Introduction* about a year ago. He moved to a small farm town near Toronto to write the album, but the move also ended up giving Tizzard his album’s curious title.

“You know how it is with small towns, everybody kind of knows everybody, and when the new person comes in, everybody knows the new person but the new person doesn’t know anybody!” Tizzard explains.

**“When I first left the commercial world and decided to do everything on my own, it was very exciting because I hadn’t done the [do-it-yourself] thing in 15 or 18 years.”**

KEN TIZZARD

“I kept meeting people on the street, and they’d say, ‘Oh, you’re the new guy who moved into the old story house’ ... the family name who had the house for generations was the Storeys,” he continues. “[While writing the record], I saw the songs in little vignettes, little stories of points of time in my life.”

For example, “All Because Of You” is about the teenage heartbreak that no one ever really gets over. While

Tizzard isn’t afraid to give away his songs’ personal meanings, or write from a teenage perspective, he appreciates any new connections listeners may make with their own lives. Tizzard himself has discovered new, fresh interpretations to his work over time.

“About a year ago, I performed ‘All Because of You’ in Toronto. That morning, I’d gone to a friend of mine’s funeral. I was offering my condolences to her husband,” Tizzard recalls. “They’d been together for over fifty years, and I just remember thinking how devastating it must be to [lose] your childhood sweetheart, and after fifty or sixty years of marriage, to be left alone.

“That night, I dedicated that song to them,” he continues. “It just became a very clear vision; even though it’s about pining away for that teen love thing, it also has to do with [the question that] after all is said and done, are you going to wait for somebody on the other side?”

Tizzard is also currently between worlds, hovering over the choice of staying independent or going back to a major label. With ample experience on both sides, deciding if he’ll return to a commercial label in the future will be that much more difficult. Right now, he’s kicking back and enjoying his time spent sitting on the fence.

“As much as people have smashed the major labels and managers and all that stuff these days, there’s an awful lot they do for you,” Tizzard says. “When you’ve lived on both sides of the fence, you kind of see it a bit clearer.”



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